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With compliments of

his sincere friend

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274

SPECIMENS

OF

Early Wood Engraving:

BEING

Impreſſions of Wood-cuts

IN THE

POSSESSION of the *PUBLISHER.*

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Newcastle-upon-Tyne:
WILLIAM DODD, No. 5, BIGG MARKET.

1862.

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63853

Only 100 Copies printed.

INTRODUCTION.

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IN bringing this Collection of Impreſſions from Old Wood Cuts before the public, it appears deſirable to ſupply ſome account of their hiſtory, ſo far as may be aſcertained. They were probably firſt gathered together by *John White* of *Newcaſtle*, for many are obſerved on the broadſides, ballads, and other works of a ſimilar kind, printed and published by him. He was a citizen of *York*, and came here in 1708, where he eſtabliſhed himſelf as a printer. Apart from commencing the *Courant* newspaper in 1711, he printed and ſold to chapmen and the public a large variety of "ſmall books, ballads and ſongs" Many of the blocks, however, are of an earlier date than the time when he lived, for amongſt them is the original cut which appeared on the title page of the first known edition of Robin Hood's Garland, publiſhed in 1670; a *fac-simile* of which is given in "Douce's Illuſtrations of Shakſpeare," and also in "Jackſon and Chatto's Hiſtory of Wood Engraving." Some of theſe he may have procured from his father at *York*, who was ſole printer to *King William*, for the five northern counties of *England*. *John White* lived to the age of 81, dying at his houſe in *Pilgrim Street*, in 1769. He was ſucceeded by *Thomas Saint*, who probably came into poſſeſſion of his collection of wood blocks, for he alſo printed hiſtories and ballads for the common people in large quantities. Still, in this line of production, he would appear to have had a formidable rival, in *Thomas Angus*, to whom he likely diſpoſed of his collection of cuts; for they were extenſively uſed in printing the above ſpecies of popular literature both by the latter and his ſon, *George Angus*, whoſe name is ſo frequently ſeen on nearly all the old hiſtories and ballads which were publiſhed at *Newcaſtle*. At the ſale of the effects of *George Angus*, which

took place a number of years ago, the whole collection was purchaſed by the late *Emerſon Charnley*. Subſequently his ſon had a few copies of impreſſions taken for private diſtribution. Many applications were afterwards received by parties wiſhing to purchaſe the work, and as it was favourably noticed at the time by the general press, the preſent owner of the cuts has been induced to have a limited number of copies drawn, and arranged for ſale.

Newcaſtle, therefore, has been long diſtinguiſhed for producing at a cheap rate such popular tracts as "*Tom Hickathrift*," "*Jack and the Giants*," "*Chevy Chaſe*," "*Valentine and Orſon*," "*Dr. Faustus*," "*Robin Hood*," "*Lord Bateman*," "*The King and the Cobbler*," "*The Seven Champions of Chriſtendom*," and other rare,

> "Antique Ballads ſung to crowds of old
> Now cheaply bought at thrice their weight in gold."

Theſe were uſually adorned by the following cuts, and we may ſuppoſe that the greater number paſſed under the eye of *Thomas Bewick*, affording him important material for contemplation. But that individual, in the true ſpirit of genius, was not ſlow to obſerve wherein other engravers had been defective, and accordingly he roſe in that department to be the firſt man of his age. At the end of the volume will be found impreſſions from a few blocks which received their laſt touches from that great artiſt's unrivalled hand. The work, therefore, independent of its curioſity, may be considered valuable as a contribution to the Hiſtory of Wood Engraving, previous to its revival in the eighteenth century.

Newcaſtle-on-Tyne.
30th Dec. 1862.

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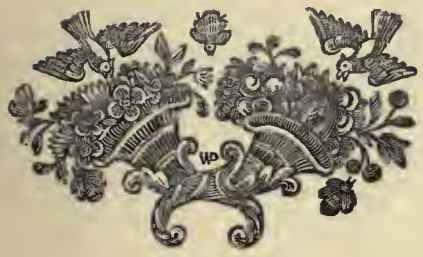

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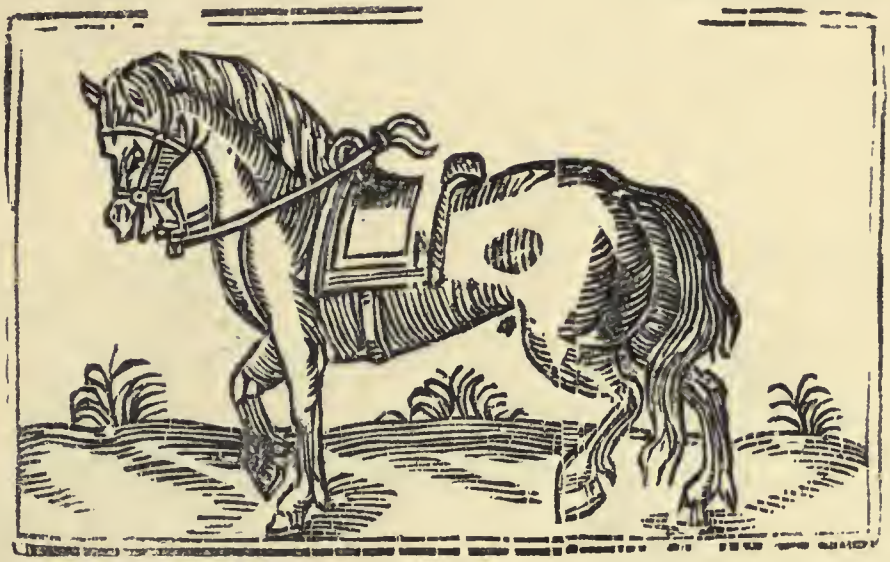

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Be thou Faithful unto Death, and
I will give thee a Crown of Life,
Rev. ii. 10.

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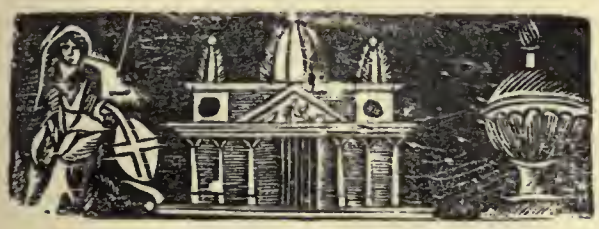

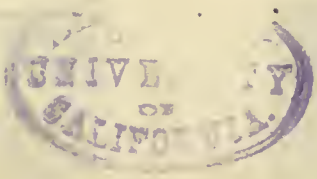

The Royall Oak.

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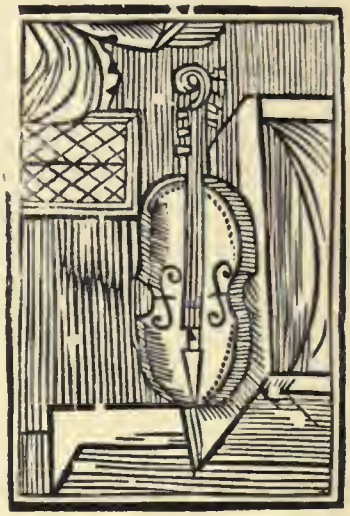

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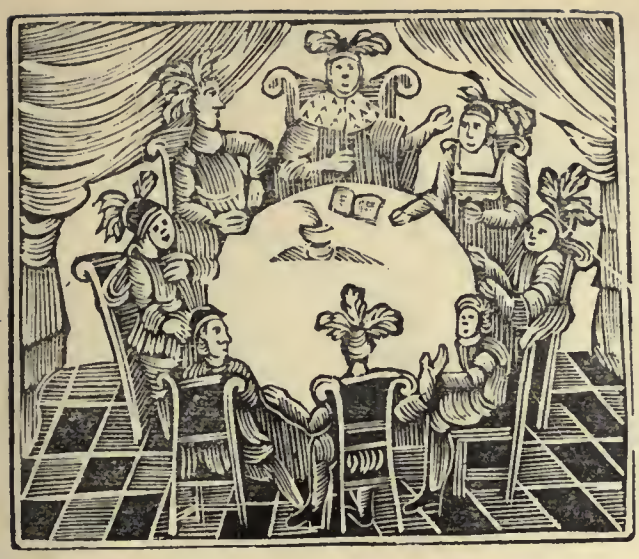

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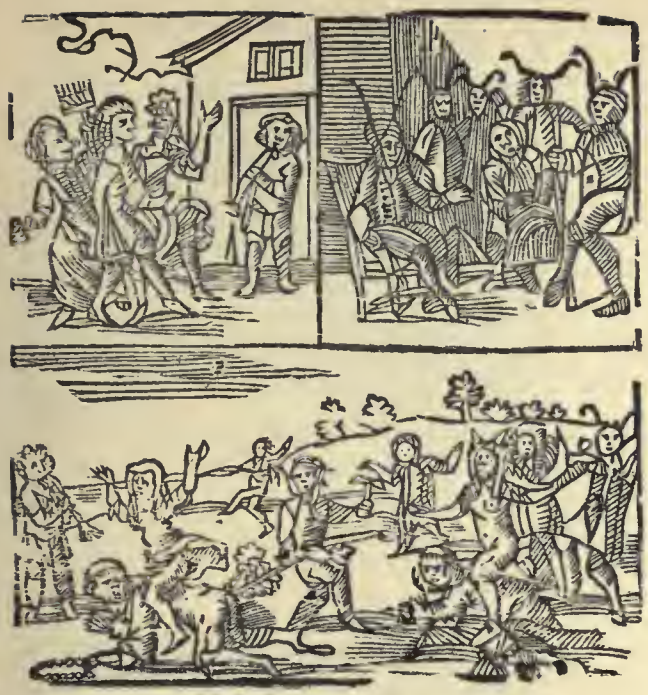

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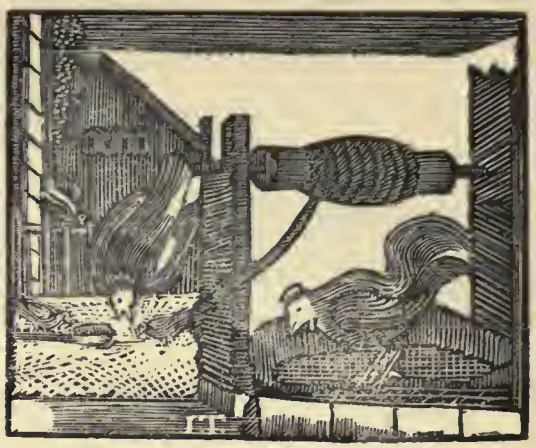

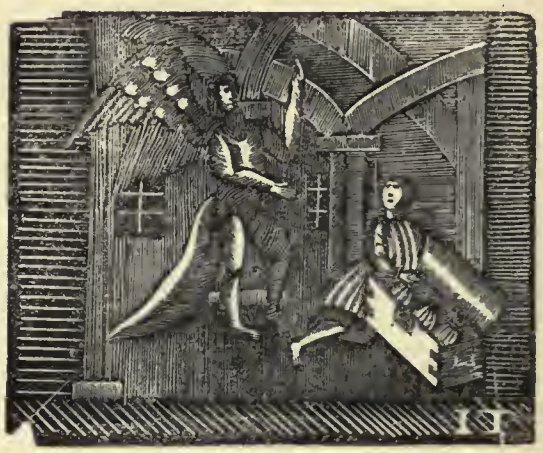

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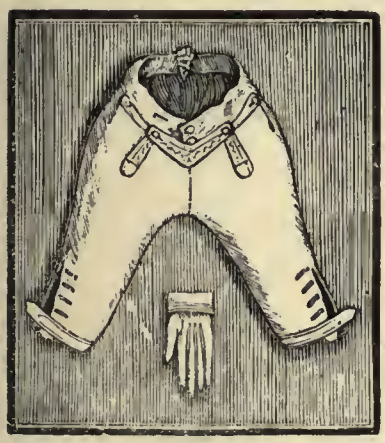

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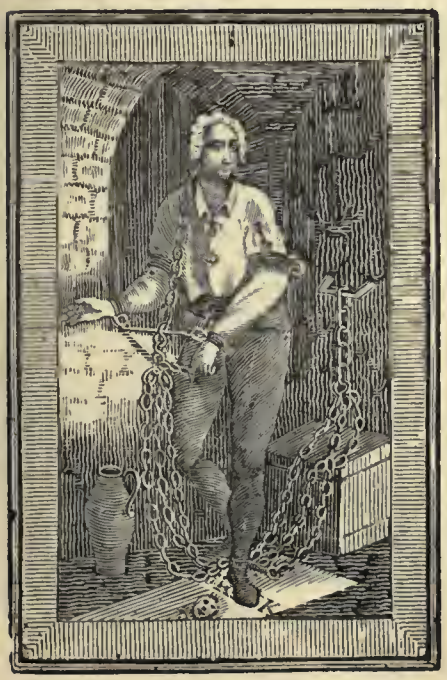

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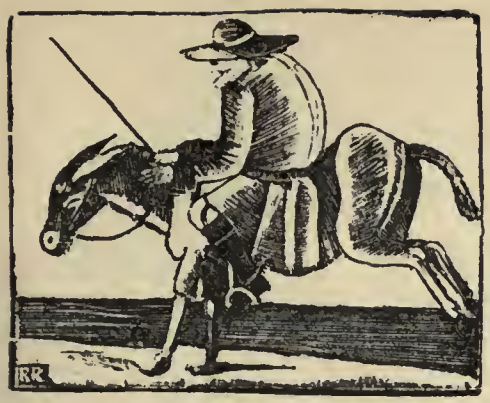

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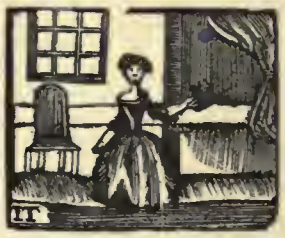

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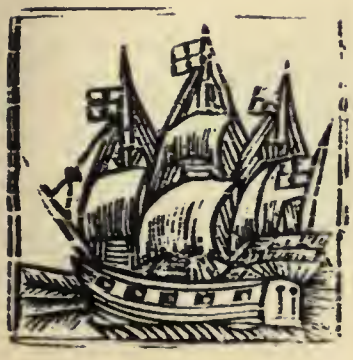

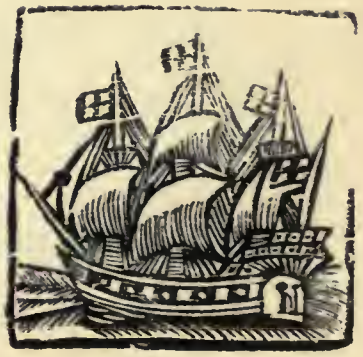

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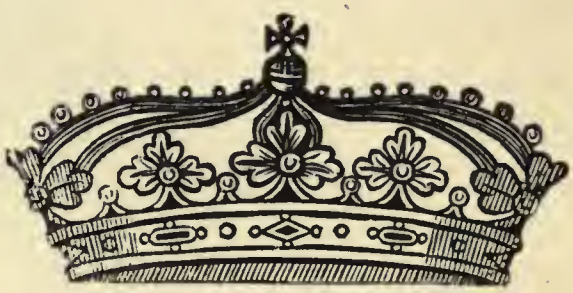

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Mr WILLIAM MARKHAM.

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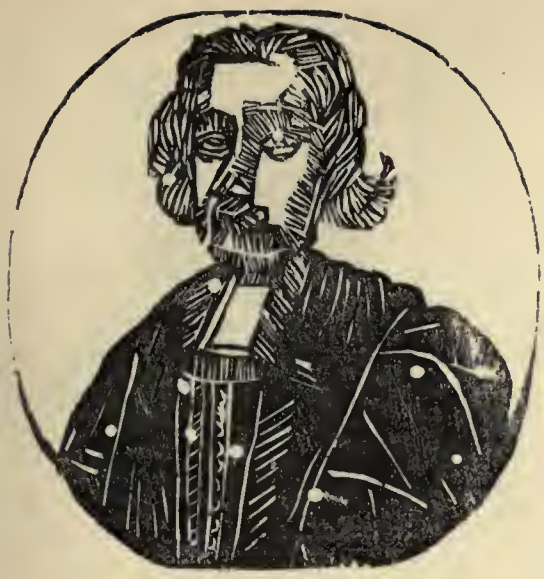

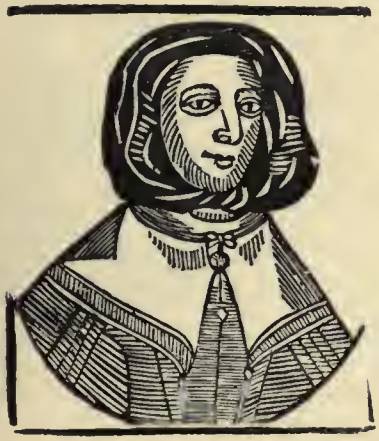

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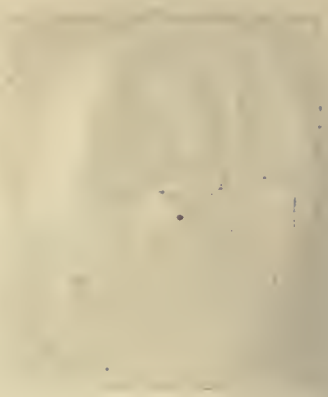

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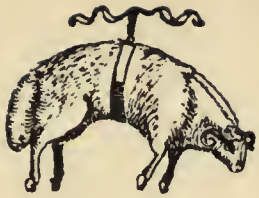

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TEA

The
Chinese
Tea
Warehouse

GEEN
TEA

DAVIDSON
Grocer & Tea-dealer
Side NEWCASTLE

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COUNTRYMAN's
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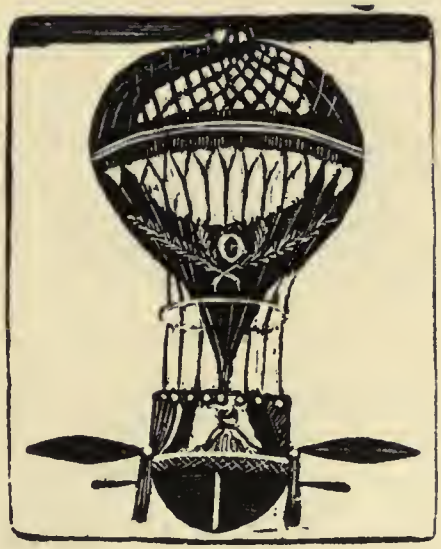

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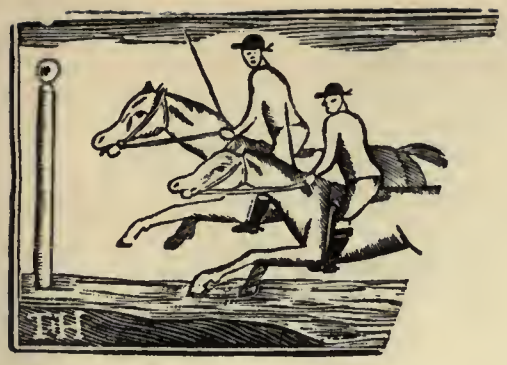
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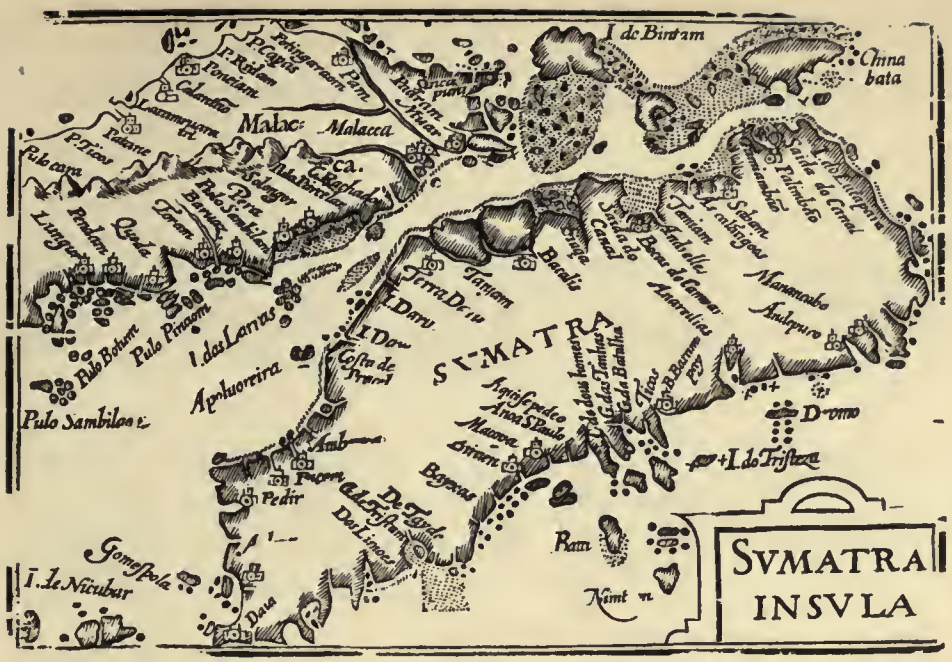
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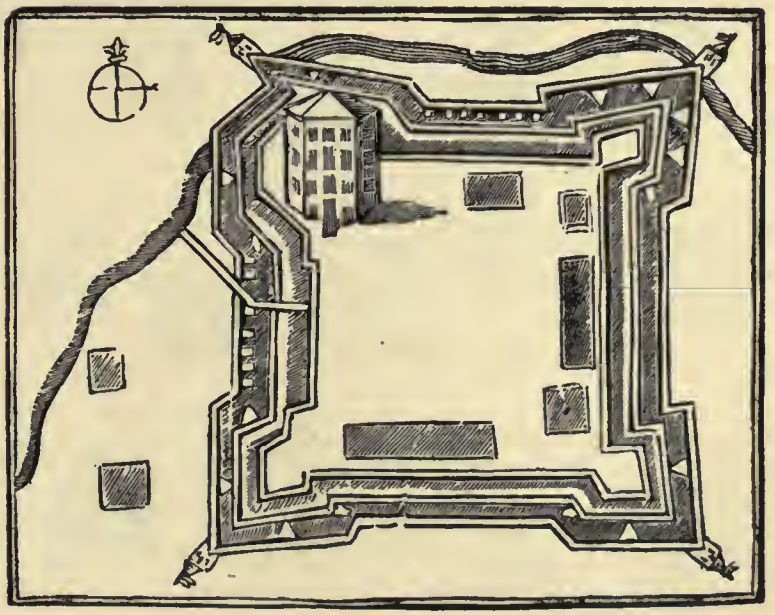

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Grapes

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Jug
King
Lamb
Net

Owl
Pearl
Rainbow
Ship
Trumpet
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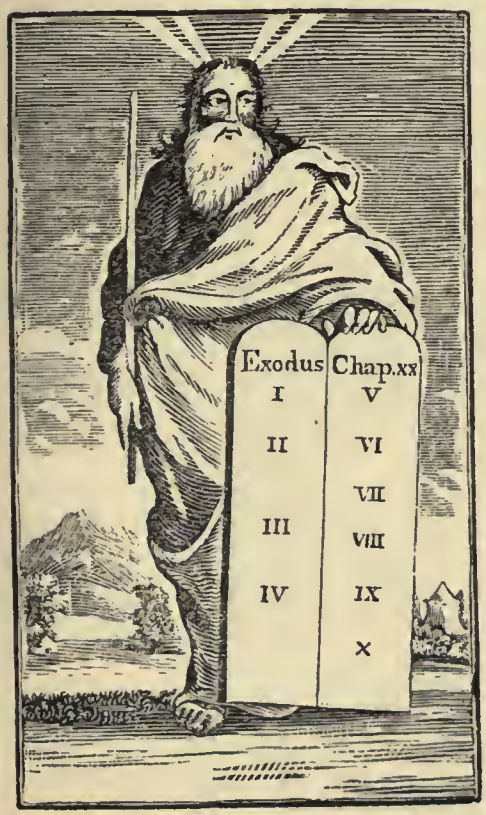
Exodus Chap.xx
I V
II VI
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III VIII
IV IX
X

THE
Chriſtian Faith

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Children obey your Parents in the LORD; for this is right. Ephes. 6. 1.

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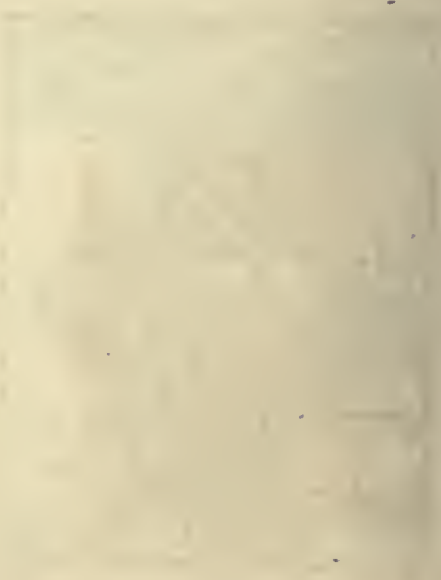

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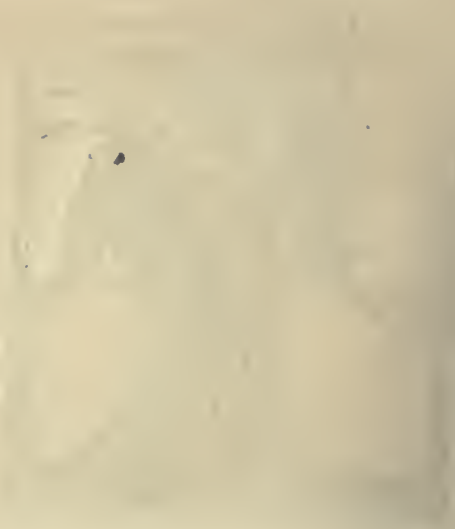

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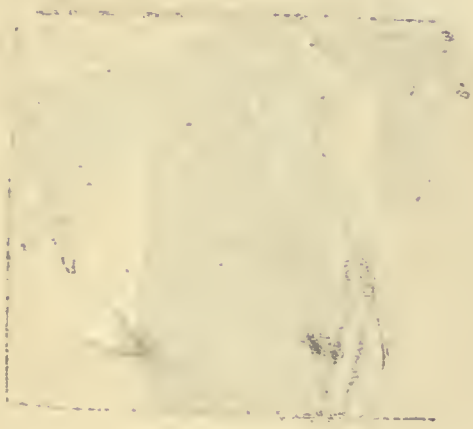

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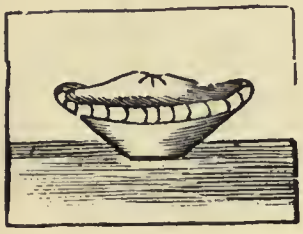

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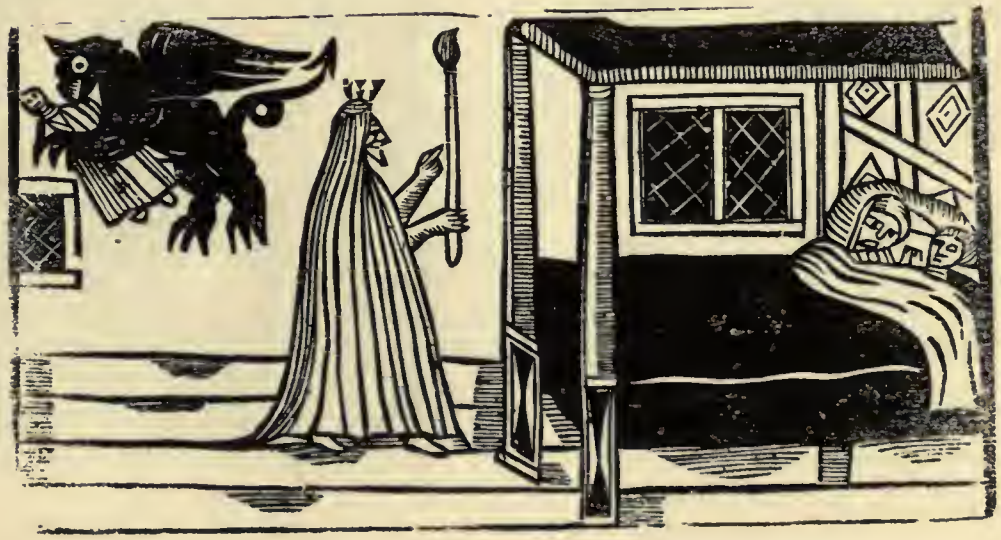

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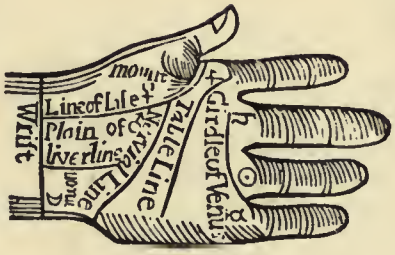
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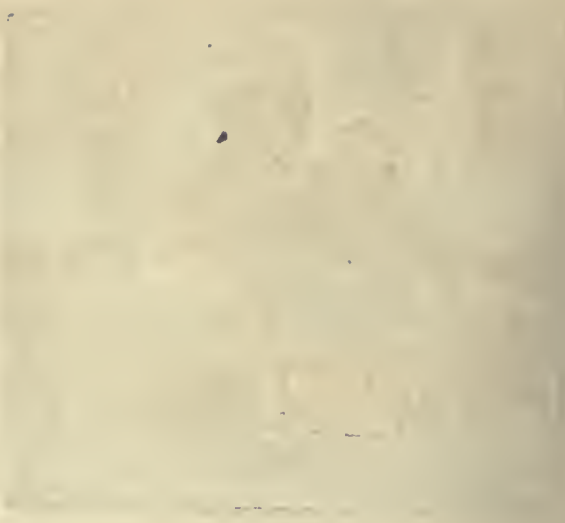
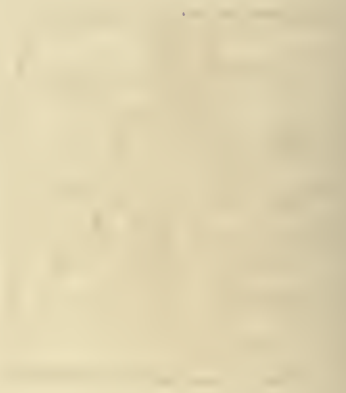
Girdle of Venus
Table Line
Wrist

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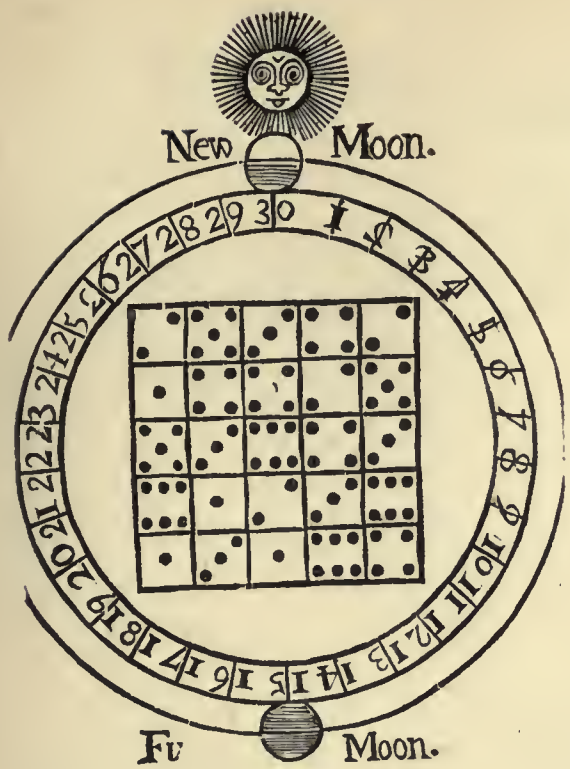
New Moon.
Fv Moon.

NEW MOON.
FULL MOON.

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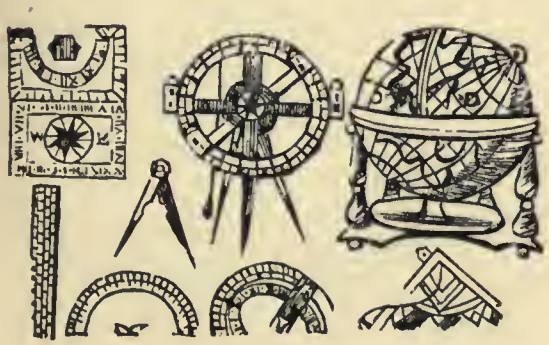

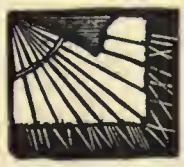

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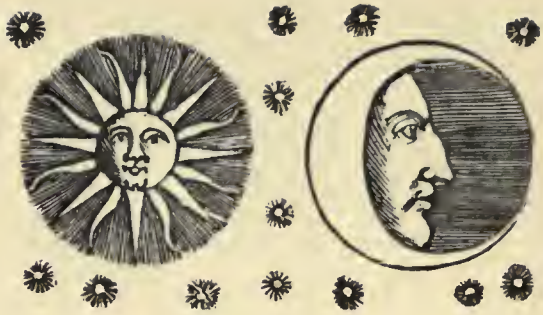

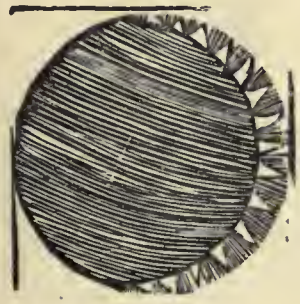

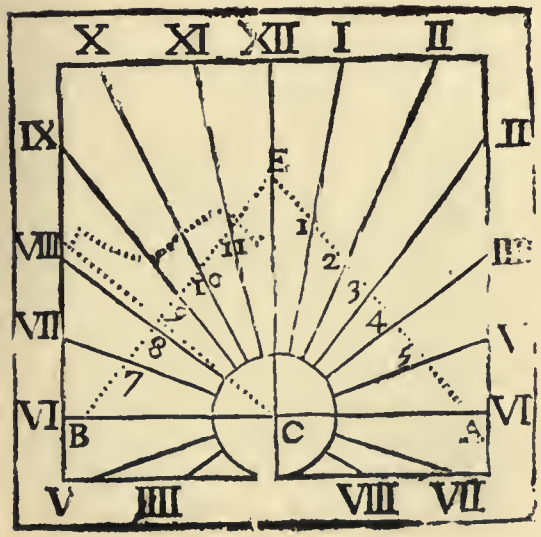
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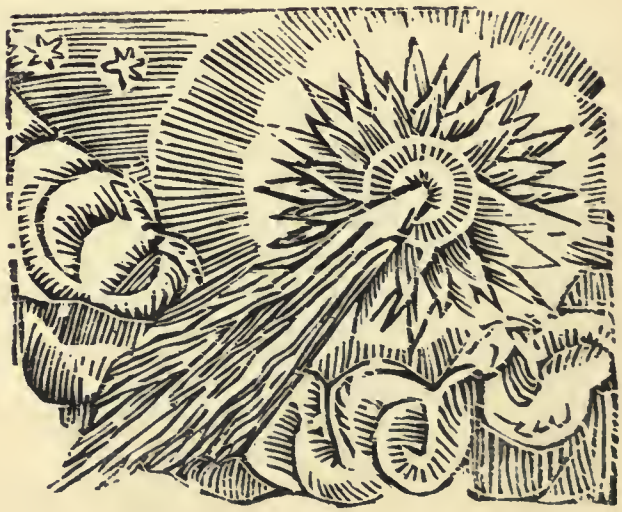

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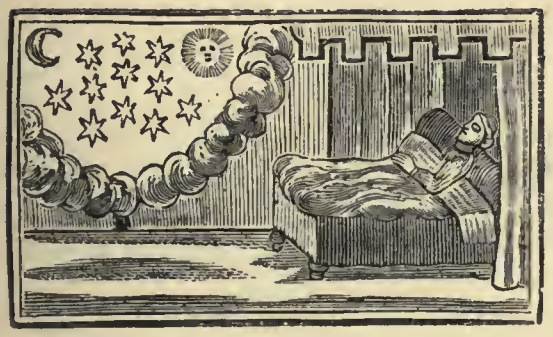

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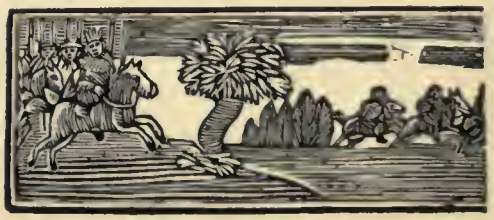

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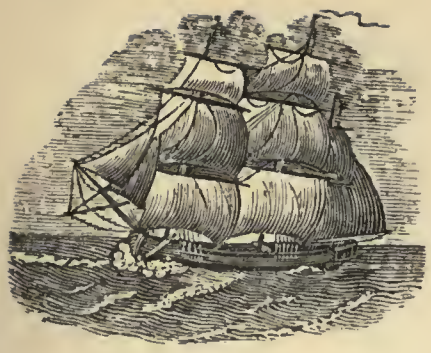

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Fox

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Ibex

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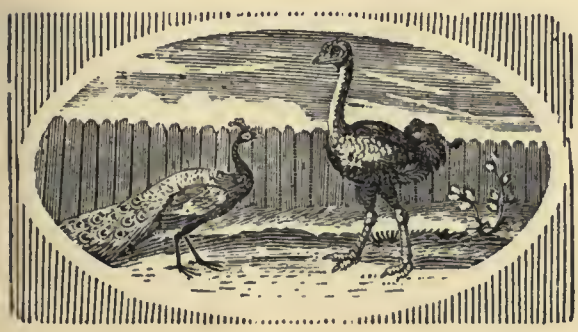

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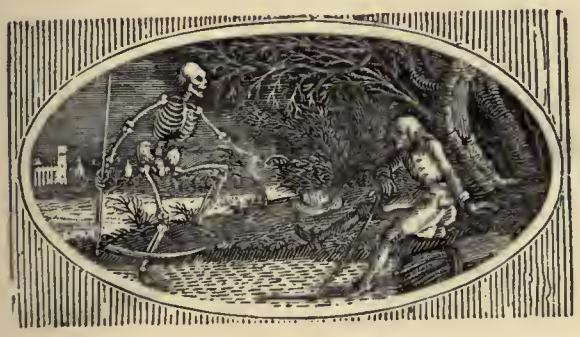

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